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State Announces Request for Proposals for Energy Conservation Program Service Providers

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) today announced the posting of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Energy Conservation and Weatherization Program service providers. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the state of Indiana will receive \$131.8 million in stimulus funding for energy conservation (weatherization) efforts.

“Indiana’s energy conservation and weatherization program has been helping Hoosiers cut energy costs for years,” said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who oversees IHCDA. “The infusion of stimulus money will allow us to expand the program and hopefully create jobs quickly while leaving a lasting impact.”

When this new effort and existing programs are combined, the program will be 11 times the total of all current annual weatherization programs.

“We have been working with stakeholders to develop a plan that will maximize the resources we have been given, and provide these services in an efficient and timely manner,” said Sherry Seiwert, Executive Director of IHCDA. “The Daniels-Skillman Administration has put a great deal of thought into creating this plan, and we are expecting several entities to step forward and apply for this opportunity.”

The State is seeking qualified and comprehensive proposals from non-profit organizations with the desire and capacity to administer this program to families under 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Program service providers will be responsible for activities including, but not limited to, client intake and selection, energy audits,

weatherization/conservation activities, interim and close-out inspections, and data management. The contract term will be from May 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

All applicants and subcontractors must be in good standing with the Indiana Secretary of State, as well as in good standing with Indiana's Department of Revenue and the Department of Workforce Development. All applicants are subject to an organizational background screen by IHCD and are required to conduct background checks of all employees and/or contractors that will be involved in the program. Evaluation of all proposals will be done by IHCD and its counsel based on several evaluation criteria. Those proposals that demonstrate capacity to timely and efficiently perform Weatherization Program services will be selected for further consideration. Separate negotiations will then be conducted with each selected applicant to discuss the details of its proposal. At the conclusion of these negotiations, IHCD will establish funding levels and service areas for each of the selected proposals. Final selection for awards will be at the discretion of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

When selecting Weatherization Program administrators, IHCD will give preference to organizations who can demonstrate ability, experience, and proficiency in the following areas:

Administering weatherization or rehabilitation projects; Administering projects of a similar nature; An effective timeline for spending the requested funds; Proof that the entity is incorporated and located in the State of Indiana; Capacity to perform; and Innovation and Creativity for the manner in which they will maximize the number of households receiving Weatherization, the degree of energy efficiency to be achieved, and the long term impact of the proposed project on the local economy. Additional regulations and details may be found in the complete RFP, located on the state's stimulus funds website, INvest.in.gov.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority will conduct a program orientation on March 31, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon EST, at the offices identified above. All prospective applicants are encouraged to attend the orientation. All proposals must be received by IHCD, located at 30 S. Meridian St., Suite 1000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, no later than 5:00 PM on April 15, 2009. All proposals will be stamped with a received date and time. Any proposal received after 5:00 PM on April 15th will not be considered for funding. IHCD will also host a public hearing on April 21 to hear comments about potential service providers.

For updated information regarding Indiana's use of federal stimulus funds, please visit: INvest.in.gov

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The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCD) mission is for every Hoosier to have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable, good-quality housing in economically stable communities. IHCD believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information go to www.indianahousing.org. For updates from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.in.gov/lgov.